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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

selecting a subset of a plurality of characteristics from a plurality of records based on a model norm; ~~norm~~; and

preparing a report with the subset;

ordering the subset of the plurality of characteristics in the report based on a relative significance of the characteristics in the model norm, wherein the relative significance specifies a different order of the characteristics than the records;

ordering the plurality of records in the report based on a sort rule in the model norm;

receiving a favored norm from an information supplier of a selected record in the report;

selecting a second subset of the plurality of characteristics from the plurality of records, wherein the favored norm specifies the second subset; and

creating a second report with the second subset.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the preparing the report further comprises:

preparing extra characteristics not in the subset in a least-significant column of the report as a sequence of name-value pairs.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the preparing extra characteristics further comprises:

ordering the name-value pairs based on a relative significance in a favored norm.

6. (Currently amended) A storage medium~~An apparatus~~ comprising:

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means for selecting a subset of a plurality of characteristics from a plurality of records based on a model norm;

means for preparing a report with the subset; subset; and

means for ordering the subset of the plurality of characteristics in the report based on a relative significance of the characteristics in the model norm, wherein the relative significance specifies a different order of the characteristics than the records;

means for receiving a favored norm from an information supplier of a selected record in the report;

means for selecting a second subset of the plurality of characteristics from the plurality of records, wherein the favored norm specifies the second subset; and

means for creating a second report with the second subset.

7. (Currently amended) The storage medium~~apparatus~~ of claim 6, wherein the means for preparing further comprises:

means for preparing extra characteristics not in the subset in a least-significant column of the report as a sequence of name-value pairs.

8. (Currently amended) The storage medium~~apparatus~~ of claim 6, wherein the means for preparing further comprises:

means for preparing extra characteristics not in the subset in a series of columns ordered based on a relative significance in a favored norm.

9. (Currently amended) The storage medium~~apparatus~~ of claim 6, wherein the means for preparing further comprises:

means for preparing an indicator of whether extra characteristics not in the subset are available.

10. (Currently amended) The storage medium~~apparatus~~ of claim 6, further comprising:

means for ordering the plurality of records in the report based on a sort rule in the model norm.

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11. (Currently amended) A ~~storage~~~~signal-bearing~~ medium encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed comprise:

selecting a subset of a plurality of characteristics from a plurality of records received from one of a plurality of information suppliers, wherein the selecting of the subset is based on a model norm;

preparing a first report with the ~~subset; subset; and~~

ordering the subset of the plurality of characteristics in the first report based on a relative significance of the characteristics in the model norm, wherein the relative significance specifies a different order of the characteristics than the records;

receiving a favored norm from the one of the plurality of information suppliers;

selecting a second subset of the plurality of characteristics from the plurality of records, wherein the favored norm specifies the second subset; and

creating a second report with the second subset.

~~creating a second report based on a favored norm associated with a selected record from the first report.~~

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The ~~storage~~~~signal-bearing~~ medium of claim 11, wherein the preparing further comprises:

ordering the plurality of records in the first report based on a sort rule in the model norm.

14. (Currently amended) The ~~storage~~~~signal-bearing~~ medium of claim 11, wherein the creating further comprises:

ordering the subset of the plurality of characteristics in the second report based on a relative significance in the favored norm.

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15. (Currently amended) The ~~storage signal bearing~~ medium of claim 11, wherein the creating further comprises:

ordering the plurality of records in the second report based on a sort rule in the favored norm.

16. (Currently amended) An electronic device comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed on the processor comprise:

selecting a first subset of a plurality of characteristics from a plurality of records received from a plurality of information suppliers, wherein the selecting the first subset is based on a model norm,

preparing a first report with the first subset,

ordering the first subset of the plurality of characteristics in the first report based on a relative significance of the characteristics in the model norm~~norm, and,~~ wherein the relative significance specifies a different order of the characteristics than the records.

ordering the plurality of records in the first report based on a sort rule in the model norm,

receiving a favored norm from one of the plurality of information suppliers, wherein the one of the plurality of information suppliers is associated with a selected record in the first report,

selecting a second subset of the plurality of characteristics from the plurality of records, wherein the favored norm specifies the second subset, and creating a second report with the second subset.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) The electronic device of claim 16~~claim 17~~, wherein the creating further comprises:

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ordering the second subset in the second report based on a relative significance in the favored norm.

19. (Currently amended) The electronic device of claim 16~~claim 17~~, wherein the creating further comprises:

ordering the plurality of records in the second report based on a sort rule in the favored norm.

20. (Original) The electronic device of claim 16, wherein the instructions further comprise:

propagating the plurality of records with a default value specified in the model norm if the plurality of records lack a value.